

**Statement by Ms. Moukdavanh SISOULITH,
Deputy Director General, Department of International Organizations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR,
At the Convention on Cluster Munitions Intersessional Meetings 2022
16 – 17 May 2022**

Agenda item: International Cooperation and Assistance.

Mr. President,

Distinguish delegates,

The Lao PDR is of the view that international cooperation and assistance is one of the main key to successfully achieve the Convention objectives. As one of the most cluster munitions remnant contamination country, the CCM implementation is the Government top priority as UXO not only an obstacle to the economic development but it is still a threats to our people lives especially in the rural area and Lao PDR will not be able to fully fulfill all the Convention's obligations without the support and assistance from international community. Therefore, it is utmost importance that international cooperation and assistance need to be strengthen especially during this difficult time.

Over the last few year, the Lao PDR has continued to receive support and assistances from various stakeholders in wide range of programmes covering survey and clearance, MRE, victim assistance, capacity building and more from friendly countries namely: Canada, Ireland, Luxembourg, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, UK and the U.S. As well as, International Organizations such as: UNDP, HALO Trust, HI, JMAS, MAG, NPA and World

Education, which significantly contribute not only to the implementation of the Convention but to the Lao PDR Socio-Economic development as a whole.

Mr. President,

To ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the support and assistance in both technical and financial form, the design of such program should be tailor-made based on national needs and circumstance. More importantly, support and assistance programmes should be conducted without pretext and condition.

While the Lao PDR fully takes national ownership toward implementing our obligation under the Convention, we strongly emphasize that international cooperation and assistance is the core for resources mobilizing and capacity building. In this connection, I would like to update that the country coalition has been set up under the name “UXO Sector Working group”, which we have developed from our existing coordination mechanism. We sincerely hope that the “new” UXO Sector Working Group which is based on multi-stakeholders approach will improve practical measures and explore more resource mobilizations to accomplish our work plan under the Extension of Article 4 and the overall Convention.

On this occasion, the Lao PDR would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all countries and international organizations for consistently rendering supports to us and we continue to count on all development partners to enhance cooperation and assistances in making tangible progress toward achieving our common objectives under the CCM.

I thank you